Attorney Docket No.: 07039-260001

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1	1.	A method of quantitating IL-1 β in a bone marrow preparation comprising;
2	a)	culturing stromal cells with said bone marrow prep aration;
3	b)	determining the amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cell culture; and
4	c)	correlating the amount of IL-6 produced to the IL-1 β concentration in said
5		bone marrow preparation by comparison to a standard curve prepared by
6		measuring IL-6 produced by stromal cells contacted with known
7		concentrations of IL-1 β .
8	2.	The method of claim 1, wherein said bone marrow preparation is from a
9	patient suffer	ing from multiple myeloma (MM) or a multiple myeloma-related
0	plasmaprolife	erative disorder.
1	3.	A method of detecting multiple myeloma (MM) in an individual comprising:
2	a)	culturing stromal cells with a bone marrow preparation from said individual;
3		and
4	b)	determining the amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cell culture, wherein
5		an elevated level of IL-6 is indicative of MM.
6	4.	A method of identifying a patient with a multiple myeloma-related
17	plasmaproliferative disorder likely to progress to active multiple myeloma (MM) comprising:	
8	a)	culturing stromal cells with a bone marrow preparation from said patient; and
19	b)	determining the amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cell culture, wherein
20		an elevated level of IL-6 is indicative of a likelihood said patient will progress
21		to active MM.
22	5.	The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myeloma-related

- 22 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder is monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS).
 - 6. The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder is smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM).

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7.	The method of claims 3 or 4, wherein an elevated level of IL-6 is a
concentration	of IL-6 greater than that produced by stromal cells incubated with 1 pg/ml of
recombinant	IL-1β.

- 8. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein said bone marrow preparation is selected from the group consisting of a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells, a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells and a mononuclear cell preparation purified from bone marrow.
- 9. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein an inhibitor of IL-1β is added to the stromal cell culture of step a).
 - 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said inhibitor of IL-1 β is selected from the group consisting of an anti-IL β antibody, a soluble IL-1 receptor (sIL-1R) type I, a sIL-1R type II, an interleukin-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra) and an IL-1 TRAP.
 - 11. A method of identifying a patient with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder likely to progress to active multiple myeloma (MM) comprising:
 - a) culturing a bone marrow preparation from said patient with a T-cell line that produces IL-2 in response to IL-1β;
 - b) determining the amount of IL-2 produced by said T-cell line; and
 - c) identifying said patient as likely to progress to MM if said amount of IL-2 is elevated.
 - 12. The method of claim 11, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder is monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS).
- 23 13. The method of claim 11, wherein said multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder is smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM).

- 14. The method of claim 11, wherein said T-cell line is selected from the group consisting of EL4.6.1, LBRM 33 and primary cultures of thymocytes.
 - 15. A method of monitoring the effectiveness of the treatment of a patient multiple myelom (MM) comprising:
 - a) culturing stromal cells with a bone marrow preparation from said patient after the initiation of treatment;
 - b) determining the amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cell culture; and
 - c) comparing said amount of IL-6 with a known standard or a patient determined standard.
 - 16. A method of treating a patient with multiple myeloma (MM) comprising:
 - a) identifying a patient with MM; and
 - b) administering an inhibitor of interleukin-1J (IL-1J) to said patient.
 - 17. A method of inhibiting interleukin-6 (IL-6) production by bone marrow stromal cells in a patient suffering from multiple myeloma (MM) or a multiple myeloma-related plamaproliferative disorder comprising administering an inhibitor of interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) to said patient in an amount effective to inhibit the production of IL-6 by said bone marrow stromal cells.
 - 18. A method of inhibiting interleukin-6 induced myeloma cell proliferation in a patient suffering from multiple myeloma (MM) or a multiple myeloma-related plamaproliferative disorder comprising administering an inhibitor of interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) to said patient in an amount sufficient to inhibit myeloma cell proliferation.
 - 19. The method of either of claim 17 or claim 18, wherein said multiple myelomarelated plasmaproliferative disorder is selected from the group consisting of monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM) and indolent multiple myeloma (IMM).

1	20.	A method of inhibiting the progression from monocional gammopathy of	
2	undetermined significance (MGUS) to multiple myeloma (MM) in a patient suffering from		
3	MGUS comp	rising administering an inhibitor of interleukin- 1β (IL- 1β) to said patient.	
4	21.	A method of inhibiting the progression from smoldering multiple myeloma	
5	(SMM) to multiple myeloma (MM) in a patient suffering from SMM comprising		
6	administering	g an inhibitor of interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) to said patient.	
7	22.	The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein said inhibitor of IL-1 β is	
8	selected form the group consisting of an anti-IL β antibody, a soluble IL-1 receptor (sIL-1R)		
9	type I, a sIL-1R type II, an interleukin-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra) and an IL-1 TRAP.		
10	23.	A kit comprising:	
11	a)	an inhibitor of bioactive IL-1 β ;	
12	b)	a negative control for the inhibitor of bioactive IL-1β; and	
13	c)	a positive control for bioactive IL-1β.	
14	24.	The kit of claim 23, wherein the inhibitor of bioactive IL-1 β is selected from	
15	the group consisting of an anti-IL β antibody, a soluble IL-1 receptor (sIL-1R) type I, a sIL-		
16	1R type II, an interleukin-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra) and an IL-1 TRAP.		
17	25.	The kit of claim 23, wherein said positive control for bioactive IL-1 β is	
18	recombinant IL-1β.		
19	26.	The kit of claim 23, further comprising a label or package insert indicating	
20	that said positive control for bioactive IL-1 \beta is used to prepare a standard curve of IL-6		
21	produced by stromal cells contacted with known concentrations of bioactive IL-1 β .		
22	27.	The kit of claim 23 further comprising bone marrow stromal cells.	